1989-90, excise duty at a uniform rate of 35 per cent has been fixed for all types of cars, vans and jeeps. Basic excise duty on fuel efficient motor vehicles of engine capacity not exceeding 1000 cc has been increased by 10 per cent and that on fuel efficient motor vehicles of engine capacity exceeding 1000 cc by 5 per cent. It is a fact that with this change in excise duty, the price of Maruti cars has increased. However, it is considered that fuel efficient cars have established themselves and there is no need to continue with the concessional rates which were available to them since 1983.

Hike in excise duty on two wheelers

3572. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent hike in excise duty on two wheelers will adversely affect the middle class families in the country; and

(b) whether this will have heavy pressure on public transport systems in the metropolitan and other urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) As a revenue raising measure, the basic excise duty on certain types of two wheelers, depending on the engine capacity, was raised by five percentage points in the budget for 1989-90. The increase in prices of such two wheelers consequent to the duty increase cannot be considered to be so significant as to adversely affect the middle class sector, leading to greater pressure on the public transport systems.

Income-tax evasion charge against film actress

3573. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh charge of income-tax evasion has been proved against film actress Rekha;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(c) whether any diary was seized from her?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Additions made on account of 'cash payments not declared in the returns of income' amounting to Rs. 41,000|- for the assessment year 1976-77 and Rs. 1,90,000|- for the assessment year 1976-77 and Rs. 1,90,000|- for the assessment year 1977-78, in the reassessments of income for the said assessment years, have since been confirmed by the first appellate authority, *vide* his order dated 23.12.1988.

(c) During the course of searches at the residential premises of Kum. Rekha Ganeshan and her secretary on 2-11-1982, two diaries were seized.

Pre-printed cheques stolen from the Regional Office of Unit Trust of India, Madras

3574. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether few pre-printed cheques awaiting cancellation were stolen from the Regional Office of the Unit Trust of India, Madras;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) when the incident was discovered and whether any FIR|complaint was lodged in the matter;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what are the details of the persons to whom such cheques were sent;

(f) whether any investigation has been made; and

(g) if so, what are the details and result thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.